

## MACAULAY'S USE OF LITERATURE

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the whole, in six substantial volumes, which will, I am afraid, find little favour with readers who seek only amusement, but which will always be useful as materials for history.<sup>1</sup>

While newspapers and newsletters are valuable as records of facts, they are inferior to pamphlets as records of opinion, for the political controversies of the time were conducted by pamphleteers of the two parties. There are few historians who have employed the political pamphlets of the period they treat, so constantly and so exhaustively as Macaulay. It is true that earlier historians, such as Kennet, Oldmixon, Ralph, and others, made great use of pamphlets, but they did so largely because the more trustworthy materials such as papers of state and official correspondence were inaccessible at the time when they wrote. Macaulay was able to combine both classes of material.

The pamphlets of the seventeenth century are a mass of historical evidence of very variable and uncertain value. Amongst them there are a number of narratives of fact, relations by eyewitnesses describing historical events, letters, autobiographical narratives of every kind; all these, after due allowance has been made for the personal equation, are evidence of first-rate value. As an instance one might mention the narratives of the

various campaigns  
in Flanders, drawn up by Edward  
d'Auvergne, a chaplain  
in the army, to which Macaulay continually  
refers. Other  
examples are the Marquis of Caermarthen's  
Journal of the  
Brest Expedition (1694), Hamilton's A True  
Relation of the  
Actions of the Inniskilling-Men (1690), and  
Walker's True  
Account of the Siege of London-Deny (1689).  
Pamphlets  
of this kind are just as valuable as memoirs or  
contem-  
porary history.

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